



# SCHOOL BUS, INC.

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## **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION "POINT OF CONTACT"** **DECEMBER 2006 NEWSLETTER**

### **SOUTH DAKOTA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING BRIEF** **NOVEMBER 13, 2006**

Board members engaged in a lively discussion about proposed rule changes related to school buses in South Dakota. The South Dakota School Transportation Association proposed the items noted below. A public hearing on the issues will take place during the board's January 2007 meeting.

- Any person driving a vehicle meeting the definition of a school bus will need a commercial drivers license (CDL).
- Any vehicle meeting the definition of a school bus will not be allowed to tow any type of trailer or vehicle with passengers on the bus.
- Any person driving a vehicle that meets the definition of a school bus, school activity bus, or any vehicle with a capacity of 10 passengers or more involved with school-related activities will be required to follow the Federal Motor Carriers Safety Association's Hours of Service Part 390.23 and Part 395. This is currently a state law. SDCL 49-28A-3.

### **In The Driver's Mirror, What Should I do If A Student Has A Seizure?**

- There is a wide variety of seizure types and accordingly, you may not always know When a student is having a seizure.
- Absence seizures and partial seizures may not require intervention from you. However, do observe and record their characteristics and their lengths. Watch the student afterwards for evidence of disorientation or grogginess.
- If a student is experiencing a grand mal or tonic/clonic seizure:
  1. Stop the bus in a safe location out of traffic.
  2. Be calm and reassure the other students on the bus that the student is having a seizure and will be OK, and that you will be watching until it is over.
  3. Protect the student from injury by removing objects from around him/her or padding those objects immobile. You can gently hold the student's head or body, but do not restrict the movement by using force.
  4. Loosen the student's clothing, allowing more freedom of movement.
  5. Never force an object between the student's teeth, This was encouraged at one time, but no longer. If you have a soft object like a handkerchief, you can place it between the student's back teeth.
  6. After the seizure, allow the student to lie flat, with his/her head turned to the side.  
(in case he/she vomits)
  7. When the student feels able to, they can return to their seat.
  8. Ask another student to sit with the student who's had the seizure. The student may fall asleep. This is normal.
  9. Assist the student in leaving the bus. They may be groggy or uncoordinated following the seizure.
  10. If a seizure lasts for more than 10-15 minutes, it is a medical emergency, the student needs medical attention.
  11. Report the seizure to the parent and to the school.

## **Head Start final rules offers key exemptions**

Washington, D.C.--- Head Start grantees have been given clearance to request waivers from two key Head Start transportation requirements---that each child be seated in a child restraint system while the vehicle is in motion and that each bus have at least one monitor on board at all times.

In a final rule published Oct. 6, the Administration for Children and Families (AFC), an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services, said grantees for Head Start and Early Head Start can have these requirements waived if they can demonstrate that adhering to them would result in a "significant disruption" to their program. If approved, the waivers would last for at least one year. The rule extends indefinitely a temporary waiver program that was already in place.

The AFC said the exceptions are being offered based on public comments over the proposed rule. According to the AFC, more than half of commentors expressed support for the waivers, citing concerns over the potential loss of partnerships with school districts and loss of transportation services for Head Start children. Two commentors suggested the waivers be approved for a period exceeding one year. Three others suggested eliminating the two requirements altogether.

Not all comments favored the waivers, however. One respondent opposed the waivers over safety concerns. Another said that enough time has passed since the regulation was published that all Head Start programs should now be in full compliance.

The AFC said it approved the waiver request mechanism "to address the circumstances faced by individual agencies related to these issues." It added that it will require waiver seekers to justify their requests to describe their efforts to achieve full compliance. The AFC will publish guidance-related circumstances under which those requests will be approved. Head Start agencies that have achieved full compliance will not receive waivers "except in extreme circumstances."

The rule, which finalizes the provisions of the proposed rule published on May 30, 2006, also revises the definition of child restraint system to remove the references to weight because it now conflicts with federal motor vehicle standards.

One Head Start grantee expressed dismay that funding is not available to purchase more child restraint systems for those children who will require these systems under the revised definition. The AFC noted that a considerable amount of money has been made available to grantees to achieve compliance since the publication of the proposed rulemaking.

Based on a recommendation by the NHTSA, the AFC also included in the final rule a formal reference to the exclusion of lap belts for use by small children.

The final rule officially sets Dec 30. As the effective date for the required use of school buses or allowable alternative vehicles.

## **Seven Indicators of a Concealed Weapon**

1. **Frequent bodily adjustments:** Gun violators, in particular, will typically touch and/or adjust concealed weapons numerous times during the day. This activity ranges from a subtle tap to a distinctive grasp. Violators often make these movements when getting out of a chair or walking up the steps to board the bus.
2. **Unnatural gait:** Violators may fail to bend their knees because they have rifles or shotguns in their pants. They may also be uncomfortably because they have guns, knives or other weapons hidden in their boots or shoes causing discomfort.
3. **Jacket sag:** When you place a handgun in a jacket pocket the coat typically hangs lower on the side where the weapon is located. In addition, you will often see the fabric pulled tight from the weight of the gun, and the weapon may swing as the violator walks. Often, the outline of the weapon may be observed in the pocket area. In some cases, the violator will attempt to hold or pin the weapon if it begins to swing or beat against their body.
4. **Hunchback stride:** When trying to conceal a shotgun or rifle or submachine gun under the coat while walking, the butt of the weapon will often cause a noticeable bulge behind the armpit. Additionally, the jacket does not move naturally because it is supported by the outline of the weapon. Also, when someone wears a shoulder holster or straps on a sawed off rifle, shotgun or submachine gun under his/her arm, a bulge in front of or behind the armpit will often be visible.
5. **Weapon outline:** An alert officer can often spot the tell-tale bulge of a weapon or, in some instances, the distinct outline of a handgun, knife or brass knuckles in a violator's pocket.
6. **Visible weapons:** Clearly the most reliable of all the indicators is when the weapon can actually be seen. It's astounding how many times an armed intruder has entered a facility with a rifle or shotgun protruding from under his or her jacket without being observed by staff.
7. **Palming:** Most often observed with the edged weapon violators, palming behaviors often indicate imminent risk to the observer. The knife violator may run the blade of the weapon up along the arm or behind the leg to conceal it from frontal view. Just before a target is attacked, a violator will also typically have his/her eyes fixed on the intended victim.
8. **Please take a moment to view the video file attached to this letter. It is a real eye opener!!**